

# CITY OF

303 EAST "B" STREET, CIVIC CENTER

ONTARIO



# ONTARIO

CALIFORNIA 91764-4105

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COUNCIL MEMBERS

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CITY MANAGER

MARY E. WIRTES, MMC  
CITY CLERK

JAMES R. MILHISER  
TREASURER

August 2, 2007

CPUC  
Docket Office  
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2103  
San Francisco, CA 94102

SUBJECT: TEHACHAPI RENEWABLE TRANSMISSION PROJECT (NO. A.07-06-031)

To Whom It May Concern:

As the City of Ontario and the State of California continue to grow, we recognize the need for additional sources of energy to supply our residents. In the age of "going green," utilizing renewable sources of energy will allow SCE to meet the growing demand for power and be environmentally sensitive in the process. The Tehachapi Project will go a long way in accomplishing both goals.

The City of Ontario has reviewed the information contained in SCE's application with the Public Utilities Commission and SCE's fact sheet on the Tehachapi Project (dated March 2007). Based on that information, the City offers the following comments for the SCE project:

1. The fact sheet indicates that two tower types are available for the 500 kV lines, a skeletal design and a tubular steel pole design. Given that the area proposed for the improvements is planned for residential development, tower aesthetics are extremely important. As a result, the City of Ontario requests the tubular steel pole design be used for any new towers constructed as part of this project.
2. While not identified in the fact sheet, the City of Ontario requests a similar tubular steel pole design be used for the new 220 kV towers being constructed as part of the project.
3. The current proposal calls for both 500 and 220 kV lines adjacent to existing development west of Haven Avenue, south of Chino Avenue. The placement of both lines in this area requires an additional 150-foot wide easement be obtained. This location impacts existing entitled projects and proposed developments (see attached exhibits). City staff had met previously with SCE representatives about the potential to realigning the 500kV and

220kV lines. The City was informed by SCE that the layout of the existing substation would prevent the realignment of the transmission lines as requested. As a result, the City requested that SCE consider reducing the easement width to minimize impacts to entitled and proposed projects. SCE indicated that they will explore a reduction in the easement width. To date, a response has not been received. Given the comment period time constraints, the City is requesting the PUC consider a reduction in the easement width from 150 to 100 feet as part of the application.

4. The City is aware that other cities are considering alternative routes for the transmission lines serving the Tehachapi Project. The City of Ontario requests notification of any changes or alternatives to the proposed routing at the earliest possible opportunity so that a proper analysis of potential impacts to Ontario can be conducted.
5. The City has heard there is a method whereby the noise associated with transmission lines may be reduced. The City requests that, if available, this method be applied to the proposed facilities adjacent to planned residential areas.
6. The City has adopted a transportation implementation plan for the New Model Colony that identifies the location and width of streets. The City requests that SCE coordinate tower locations with the City outside of planned street rights of way to avoid relocation of towers at some future date.

As mentioned previously, the City has met with SCE representatives to discuss the project. SCE has been open to suggestions made by the City but the timing of the PUC submittal resulted in insufficient time to finalize all the details. The City views the PUC process as the opportunity to finalize these plans to the benefit of both the City of Ontario and SCE.

If the City can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact Jerry Blum, Planning Director, at (909) 395-2199 or [jblum@ci.ontario.ca.us](mailto:jblum@ci.ontario.ca.us).

Sincerely,



Gregory C. Devereaux  
City Manager

Attachments: Tentative Tract Map 17752  
Tentative Tract Map 18027

Cc: Otto Kroutil, Development Director  
Jerry Blum, Planning Director  
John Sullivan, City Engineer  
Neil Derry, SCE

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October 4, 2007

John Boccio/George Farra  
California Public Utilities Commission/Angeles National Forest  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

SUBJECT: TEHACHAPI RENEWABLE TRANSMISSION PROJECT (NO. A.07-06-031)

Dear Mr. Boccio and Mr. Farra:

The City of Ontario has reviewed the Notice of Preparation prepared for the Tehachapi Project and attended the September 20, 2007, scoping meeting at the City of Chino Hills. Based on a review of the written information and the public testimony, the City offers the following comments for consideration in the EIR/EIS:

1. At the scoping meeting, the City of Chino Hills presented an alternative alignment to that proposed by SCE. The alignment would utilize existing right-of-way through the Chino Hills State Park and terminate at a new substation within the park. As required under CEQA, project alternatives must be considered. The alternative provided by the City of Chino Hills appears to be a feasible alternative and the City of Ontario recommends a full environmental analysis be undertaken as part of the EIR/EIS to determine the potential impacts of the alternative relative to the proposed alignment.
2. The fact sheet indicates that two tower types are available for the 500 kV lines, a skeletal design and a tubular steel pole design. Given that the area proposed for the improvements is in close proximity to existing and planned residential development, tower aesthetics are extremely important. As a result, the City of Ontario requests the tubular steel pole design be used to mitigate the aesthetic impacts created by the project.
3. The proposed alignment involves the construction of new 220kV towers in close proximity to existing and planned residential developments. While not identified in the fact sheet or NOP, the City of Ontario requests a similar tubular steel pole design be used for the new 220 kV towers to mitigate the aesthetic impacts created by the project.



4. The current proposal calls for both 500 and 220 kV lines adjacent to existing development west of Haven Avenue, south of Chino Avenue. The placement of both lines in this area requires an additional 150-foot wide easement be obtained. This location impacts existing entitled projects and proposed developments. The City of Ontario requests that the EIR/EIS consider a reduction in the easement width from 150 to 100 feet to minimize potential impacts to the development.
5. The City has heard there is a method whereby the noise associated with transmission lines may be reduced. The City requests that, if available, this method be applied to the proposed facilities to mitigate impacts to adjacent planned residential areas.
6. The City has adopted a transportation implementation plan for the New Model Colony that identifies the location and width of streets. The City requests that SCE coordinate tower locations with the City outside of planned street rights of way to avoid relocation of towers at some future date.

We look forward to continued dialogue with you, the CPUC, and SCE as the project moves through the environmental review and entitlement process.

If the City can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact Jerry Blum, Planning Director, at (909) 395-2199 or [jblum@ci.ontario.ca.us](mailto:jblum@ci.ontario.ca.us).

Sincerely,



Gregory C. Devereaux  
City Manager

## Comment Set A.26: City of Ontario



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JAMES R. MILHISER  
TREASURER

April 6, 2009

John Boccio/Justin Seastrand  
CPUC/USDA Forest Service  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

SUBJECT: TEHACHAPI RENEWABLE TRANSMISSION PROJECT DRAFT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPROT (SCH #2007081156)

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Ontario has reviewed the information contained in Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Tehachapi Project. Based on that review, the City offers the following comments for the DEIR:

1. In our letter of August 2, 2008, the City requested that all new towers (500 kV and 220kV) be tubular steel poles rather than the skeletal design. Mitigation Measures V-2a states as follows:

*"Use tubular steel poles instead of lattice steel towers in designated areas. When feasible, SCE shall use tubular steel poles, rather than lattice steel towers, in locations designated by the CPUC and the FS (for NFS lands), to reduce visual impacts as seen from sensitive receptor locations and/or to match existing and/or future wind turbine generator monopoles and/or to accomplish community desires. SCE shall submit a Structure Type and Treatment Plan to the CPUC and FS, as appropriate, 45 days after Project approval, demonstrating compliance with this measure and Mitigation Measure V-2b (Treat surfaces with appropriate colors, textures, and finishes)."*

**Comment:** The mitigation measure does not identify the specific locations for which tubular steel poles (TSP) will be used and, in fact, defers mitigation to some future date and approval process contrary to the requirements of CEQA. The mitigation measure should identify the TSP locations to allow adequate review by all parties.

A.26-1

Comment Set A.26, continued: City of Ontario

SCE Tehachapi DEIR Comments  
April 6, 2009  
Page 2 of 2

2. *In our letter of August 2, 2008, the City noted that placement of the lines in the area west of Haven Avenue, between Chino and Schaefer Avenues, requires an additional 150-foot wide easement be obtained. This location impacts existing entitled projects and proposed developments. The City requested the PUC consider a reduction in the easement width from 150 to 100 feet as part of the application.*

**Comment:** The DEIR appears internally inconsistent. Table 3.9-1 of the DEIR says that "no residential land uses would be temporarily or permanently displaced." Figure 2.2-1v, however, indicates that a new 150-foot wide expanded right-of-way (ROW) will be required east of the existing ROW. Further, it does not appear that any analysis has been done in consideration of the request to reduce the easement width requested during the scoping period.

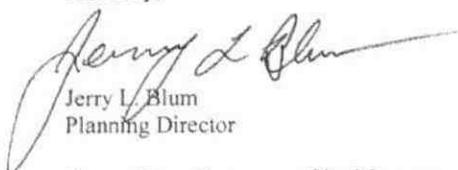
A.26-2

After consideration of the various alternatives provided in the DEIR, the City of Ontario finds that Alternative 4 is the preferred alternative. Alternative 4 would provide the necessary facilities to transmit the wind-generated electricity to the Inland Empire without any new facilities being required within the City. Alternative 4 would eliminate the need for new, taller towers impacting nearby existing and proposed residential development.

A.26-3

If the City can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at (909) 395-2199 or [jblum@ci.ontario.ca.us](mailto:jblum@ci.ontario.ca.us) or Scott Murphy, Assistant Planning Director at (909) 395-2419 or [smurphy@ci.ontario.ca.us](mailto:smurphy@ci.ontario.ca.us).

Sincerely,



Jerry L. Blum  
Planning Director

Cc: Greg Devereaux, City Manager  
Otto Kroutil, Development Director  
Scott Murphy, Assistant Planning Director

# CITY OF



# ONTARIO

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TREASURER

April 9, 2013

Public Advisor Office  
California Public Utility Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2103  
San Francisco, CA 94102

SUBJECT: APPLICATION 07-06-031 – TEHACHAPI RENEWABLE TRANSMISSION  
PROJECT, CHINO HILLS UNDERGROUNDING

Recently, the City of Ontario was made aware of Southern California Edison's (SCE) submittal of testimony relative to the potential undergrounding of 500kV transmission lines through the City of Chino Hills. This was followed by receipt of a copy (dated February 28, 2013) of the formal California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) filing on March 4, 2013. In reviewing the filing, the City was greatly disturbed by the potential impacts to the City of Ontario resulting from the undergrounding of transmission lines in the City of Chino Hills.

As proposed in SCE's filing, the Mira Loma Substation, located in Ontario, would need to be expanded at the northwest corner of the facility 175 feet to the west, extending 1,136 feet to the south. This expansion would be necessary to accommodate additional equipment to regulate the circuits/current associated with the transmission line undergrounding. The substation expansion impacts the City of Ontario in several areas:

- 1) The expansion would extend the substation into an area planned for residential development. The Rich Haven Specific Plan, approved in 2007, is entitled for the development of 4,256 dwelling units, placing homes in closer proximity to SCE facilities;
- 2) The expansion would extend the substation over a planned collector street. Mill Creek Avenue has been fully designed from Riverside Drive to Bellegrave Avenue. Through this design process, numerous meetings were held with SCE to accommodate the Mira Loma Substation and transmission towers serving the substation. Right-of-way has been acquired along the west side of the substation. Street improvements, including underground infrastructure, have been installed north of Chino Avenue and some storm drain improvements south of Chino Avenue. It is unclear at this point if Mill Creek Avenue can be redesigned to accommodate the expansion. Alternatives including curving the street, providing an offset intersection and/or eliminating Mill Creek Avenue between Chino Avenue and Edison Avenue would require further review and environmental studies, including traffic studies, none of which have been completed;



- 3) This alternative was not addressed in the EIR/EIS prepared for the TRTP. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), appropriate environmental review shall be completed on the alternative prior to any decision on the project. The review would address the aesthetic impacts, circulation impacts, biological impacts, infrastructure impacts, and any other impacts that proper scoping might determine as necessary;
- 4) The Mira Loma Substation is already one of the most aesthetically unappealing facilities in the southern portion of Ontario. As this facility was in place prior to the City's incorporation of the San Bernardino County Agricultural Preserve (also known as the New Model Colony or NMC), the City has accepted this condition and has, in fact, worked with SCE on additions internal to the substation boundaries. The expansion would, however, require the placement of additional equipment and towers at the substation, thereby further impacting the aesthetics of the area; and
- 5) It is our understanding that the equipment needed to regulate the circuits/current does not have to be placed at the Mira Loma Substation. The equipment could be placed where the transmission lines emerge from underground or any point in between where the lines come above ground and the substation. A CEQA document should be prepared analyzing alternative equipment locations, full disclosure of any impacts at those locations, and provide the City and other parties of interest with the opportunity to review and provide input on the project.

The City of Ontario has spent the better part of the last 15 years working on the plans for the transition of the Ag Preserve to a sustainable quality community (NMC). A General Plan has been developed, an Environmental Impact Report and other environmental studies have been certified, and multiple Specific Plans and legally binding Development Agreements have been approved. All of these plans have respected the existing SCE facilities. Additionally, the City has accommodated SCE's facilities associated with the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), including tower placement, tower design, and expanded right-of-way. The proposed expansion of the Mira Loma Substation negatively impacts the City of Ontario in ways that have not been analyzed. As a result, the City has no choice but to oppose expansion of the Mira Loma Substation as proposed in SCE's filing of February 28, 2013.

Feel free to contact me at (909) 395-2555 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Chris Hughes  
City Manager

c: Mayor and City Council



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August 14, 2013

Mr. Michael Peevey, CPUC President  
CPUC Commissioners Sandoval, Ferron, Florio and Peterman  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Decision 13-07-018 – Decision Granting the City of Chino Hills' Petition for Modification of Decision 09-12-044 and Requiring Undergrounding of Segment 8A of the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project

Dear President Peevey and Honorable Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Ontario, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you and all members of the Commission for the diligent efforts leading to the decision granting the City of Chino Hills Petition. We recognize the complexities involved on both sides of this difficult decision. While the City of Ontario took no position on the issue of undergrounding per se, we did articulate our strong opposition to the potential expansion of the Mira Loma Substation in our April 16, 2013 letter addressed to the Commission through its Public Advisor's office (attached for reference). We were therefore very pleased to learn that the Commission chose to exclude reactive compensation and funding from its final Order dated July 11, 2013.

Reactive compensation, if implemented at the Mira Loma Substation located within the City of Ontario, would have necessitated the expansion of the existing Mira Loma facility onto land already approved by the City for residential use under the 2007 Rich-Haven Specific Plan, and across a planned collector street and storm drain facility designed directly adjacent to the existing substation boundaries. The Rich-Haven planned community entails construction of 4,256 dwellings and associated parks, schools and commercial services, and is an integral part of Ontario's New Model Colony, a large-scale urban project over 15 years in the making, with a projected population of well over 100,000.

Please note this project will soon become a reality; construction and bid documents for the infrastructure adjacent to the existing Mira Loma substation had been completed in 2008, and were within days of release for public construction bidding. Only the onset of the recession has put construction on temporary hold. With the recent revival of the housing markets and the economy in general, we anticipate requests for construction permits from private sector developers to be imminent.

Mr. Michael Peevey, President  
Commissioners Sandoval, Ferron, Florio and Peterman  
August 14, 2013  
Page 2

The City of Ontario has a current population of approximately 168,000 residents and is home to the LA/Ontario International Airport, the fifteenth busiest cargo airport in the United States. The City serves as the largest industrial and distribution center in the Inland Empire, with immediate access to the I10 and I15 and 60 freeways. In planning for a truly balanced community, the City annexed 8,200 acres generally located to the north, west and south of the Mira Loma substation and developed a General Plan for the New Model Colony. The New Model Colony is intended accommodate the development of a balanced community and its successful implementation is of the highest importance to the City.

While we are pleased that reactive compensation and associated potential expansion of the Mira Loma facility is not at this time an integral part of the project, we remain concerned. Paragraph 5 of the Order, as adopted on July 11, 2013, provides an opportunity for a Petition to be filed to include reactive compensation. The Order states in part:

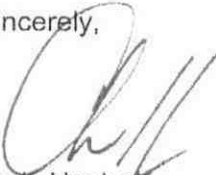
*"If Southern California Edison Company (SCE) wishes the Commission to amend the cost cap adopted in Ordering Paragraph 4, above, to include a reasonable sum for development and implementation of a Basic Insulation Level (BIL) standard in the design of UG5 (or of reactive compensation, if BIL is shown to be impracticable), SCE shall file and serve a petition for modification within 60 days of the date of this decision."*

The discussion about the potential expansion of the Mira Loma Substation is directly tied to the need for reactive compensation, should BIL become impracticable. Any such discussion should rightly include the City of Ontario.

If modifications resulting in inclusion of reactive compensation and the expansion of Mira Loma Substation are sought by Southern California Edison, the filing of a petition is required by the Order. In such an event, the City will have no choice but to move for a party status to ensure our concerns are allowed to be heard. It would indeed be ironic if a decision intended to respect the community values in one city were to result in adverse impacts on another, in this case Ontario and its community values.

We very much appreciate and thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (909) 395-2555 if you should have any questions, or if we can in any way clarify the City's concerns.

Sincerely,



Chris Hughes  
City Manager

Attachment

c: Mayor and City Council